SLAVE SALE, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, FROM A SKETCH BY EYRE CROWE. (SEE NEXT PAGE.

kind. It is a small pocket arm, of five chambers, compact, and of a symmetrical form. The whole framework is from a single piece of metal. The various parts of every pistol are struck into shape by passing through a series of dies. Another new arm, the manufacture of which has been commenced within a short time, is a rifle constructed on substantially the same principle as the pistol, but with several improvements. One of the improvements referred to is a "lubricator" for the internal surface of the barrel, designed to prevent its fouling. A considerable space might be well occupied by a minute description of this weapon. The total number of pistols made by Mr. Colt since the commencement of operations is as follows:—Pocket size, 125,869; belt, 52,117; holster, 18,423; new model, 1577. Total, 195,986. Add to this number the gross amount of those made at the London armoury of Colt, and it will make a grand total of arms made by machinery unprecedented in the history of the manufacture of small arms.

SALE OF SLAVES AT CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

A SLAVE-AUCTION in South Carolina differs in some respects from a Virginian negro sale. Whilst in the latter case the disposal of human property is made rather a matter of necessity than of boast, and this offensive feature is hidden as much as possible in out-of-the-way places from the view of all but those who purposely visit those unwholesome precincts, in Charleston, South Carolina, on the contrary, matters are in no way minced; and the barter of the blackamoors takes place close to the Exchange, which also subserves the purposes of a post-office. So that when the European traveller wends his way thereto, through dusty and ill-paved streets, it may be in search of a letter from home and for tidings of Old England, he is compelled to witness the severance of those ties which make a home, and to blush for the unworthy descendants who can thus profane the freedom cherished by their British ancestry. To a certain extent the local *Mercury* will have prepared him for the spectacle, when he reads such announcements as the following:—

AN ENTIRE GANG OF NEGROES.

Notice.—Particular attention is called to the sale at auction, this day, at eleven o'clock, by Alonzo J. White, of a very prime gang of negroes, who have been accustomed to the culture of rice. Until within the last five years they cultivated sea-island cotton. These negroes are very orderly and well disciplined, and have been long organised and worked as a gang. Among them are carpenters and a cooper.

This gang we sketched at the time, and before introducing it to notice, should premise that the matter is not as easy as might seem to be the case at first sight. The dread of the name of abolition and everything savouring of the same is so great that the population have more or less the character of spies. The stranger notices that his steps are watched with that suspicion characteristic of sentinelled fortresses. If, therefore, in wandering through the purlieus of this great stronghold of slavery you add to your equivocal appearance as a foreigner the yet more aggravating circumstance of carrying a pencil in your hand, you are looked upon with the covert hostility with which a gentleman brandishing a pistol or a stiletto in open daylight would be regarded elsewhere. Without stopping to inquire whether there is danger to be apprehended from the lead—true Cumberland—with which our weapon is loaded, or which makes the most damaging puncture, be it of poniard or pencil, we shall proceed to describe briefly the scene of the auction. The scene is laid close to the "north side of the Exchange," as the advertisements have it, which announce the terms as well as the locality, viz.:—"Conditions, one-third cash; balance in one, two, and three years, with mortgage of the property, and approved personal security; interest payable semi-annually, &c." In the immediate background, through the narrow vista afforded by the opening in the "Atlantic wharf," you notice a cotton-laden ship, probably waiting till the tide is sufficiently up to waft its freight across the bar seawards; yet nearer, and forming a good grey background, on which the swarthy gang are relieved in dark, is a ramshackled old smith's forge, with an inscription to the effect that "spars, blocks, pumps," &c., are to be had there. Amongst the foreground accessories, the palmetto, or fan-palm, which gives its name to the State of South Carolina, is conspicuous. It is rather a fastidious tree, requiring tropical heat and the sea air to flourish properly (it will be recollected that the cane presented to the notorious Mr. Preston Brooks for striking an undefended senator, was a twig plucked from this species of tree). On a stouter pole is fastened the red flag striped with white upon which the auction is announced as taking place. This flagstaff is fixed into two old circular pieces of plaster. In close proximity are two auction-tables, to hold the members of the gang. A mother clasps her piccaninny (as the negroes call their children) whilst the dealer takes the bids from the group of dealers who wander from the different States for the purpose of such investments. It has been remarked that negroes take a secret pride in fetching high prices, and will jeer a companion in slavery who is estimated at a low calibre. This is doubtless as true as hundreds of other anomalous features, risible or otherwise, which place the keen observer frequently in the position in which Reynolds has depicted the great Garrick, between Tragedy and Comedy. We laugh when we see the self-satisfied air of the negro turning up his flattened nose at a poor white man, and contemptuously nicknaming him "buckraw;" or when a State-born negro pities the recently-imported black and dubs him "poor Africanian." But the smile is turned at once into one of pity when we see them paraded like a flock of sheep, whose hair is not shorn from the top of their head merely because that kind of wool is not marketable. Look at yonder brawny fellow standing in the midst; he seems as if there was the stuff of an ebony Spartacus about him. What tales yonder fellow, who seems a little downcast, and is cheered by his companion, could tell of dreary labour in cotton-fields, or of the paddy he worked at on Combahee River! That negro-driver astride, on horseback, with his umbrella in one hand and his whip in the other, seems no very lenient taskmaster. Let us hope that, as the advertisement warrants the gang to be docile, the lash is spared, and only laid on at the last extremity. The rusty old gun, whose muzzle is well imbedded in the ground, conjures up visions of old feuds between England and its young offshoot on the other side of the Atlantic. We trust that, with this implement of destruction, the animosity, of which it is the emblem, lies buried; and that in the spirit of true friendship we may be allowed to raise up our voice now and then against the curse of slavery.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN IN DANGER.—The Absolutists who surround the Queen lately demanded her consent to a union between her daughter and the young Prince Charles, Infant of Spain, eldest son of the Infant Don Juan, brother of Count de Montemolin. The Queen was ready to assent to the proposal, but the Absolutists went further. They demanded that the Queen should abdicate in favour of her child, and that, during the minority of the new Queen, the Government of Spain be confided to a council of regency, composed of three members, two of them being the husband of Queen Isabella and the Infant Don Juan—that is to say, the father of the future Queen and the father of her intended husband. The Queen was greatly affected and irritated by this outrageous proposal, and rejected it with all her energy; but the strength and influence of the Absolutists are so great that the wisest men of the Constitutional party are alarmed. Marshal Narvaez himself and M. Pidal are troubled, and for some seconds almost despaired of the safety of their country.—*Journal des Débats.*

THE TRADE OF SIAM.—A report from Bangkok, the chief port of Siam, addressed by Mr. Bell to Sir John Bowring, and lately published by the Board of Trade, gives an encouraging account of the probable results of the new treaty with that kingdom. Mr. Bell expresses an opinion that merchants settling in Siam will find a direct trade with England to be the most profitable they can engage in. Several traders in Singapore have already recognised this fact, and are preparing to take advantage of it. The Siamese themselves, however, are likely to set the example. The opium farmer, who is described as the most enterprising merchant in Siam, has determined to send some ships to England; and Mr. Bell adds—"It would not astonish me to see the direct trade, once very great, reopened by a Siamese subject, and with Siamese vessels."

JUSTICE TO ENGLAND.—The more we study England the greater is our admiration of her perspicacity, resolution, and consequence in commercial matters. This is the noble side of that nation, and it must be confessed that in this respect no other country can equal it. There is likewise great activity and an endless power of resources in the Americans; but these qualities are spoiled by too great an impatience to attain wealth and by too expansive a conscience. England advances majestically, with a firm and upright step, in her extraordinary career. Since the day when she struck to the earth the protectionist laws which opposed her progress, she has not ceased to clear the ground and to tear up the last roots which may offer the slightest obstacle to the complete liberty of her navigation, as likewise of her commerce and manufactures. She has only a slight distance to accomplish in the task of enfranchisement which she has pursued with so much energy and in spite of the most sinister predictions, also in the struggles of commerce, she will triumph under a rule of complete independence, which befits the powerful, but which would probably conduce to the ruin of a weaker state.—*Constitutionnel.*

THE FRENCH BOURSE AND THE FRENCH RAILROAD DEFAULTERS.

THE *New York Herald* of September 26th contained a statement, compiled from the French and Belgian newspapers, relative to an immense fraud said to have been committed by two or more *employés* of the Northern Railroad of France, in abstracting and converting to their own use shares of the company valued at several millions of dollars. On the following day Louis Grelet, sub-cashier of the Northern Railroad, Eugene Grelet, his brother, Auguste Parot, a horse-dealer, and dabbler in stocks, and Mdlle. Felicite Debud, travelling companion of the horse-dealer, were arrested in New York, through the combined exertions of Auguste Belmont, the New York agent of the Rothschilds, a couple of London and Paris detectives, and the New York police.

The circumstance which led to their discovery by the officers was peculiar. One of them, Parot, having assumed the name of Debud, had called at the banking-house of Belmont, in New York, for the purpose of having French bills to the amount of 30,000 francs converted into bullion. Suspicion was awakened that he might possibly be connected with the frauds of which the house had been notified. The paper was taken, and the bullion promised to be delivered in the course of thirty days—a period which should necessarily elapse before hearing from France in regard to them, and during which the officers hoped to trace out the whereabouts of the other fugitives. In a few days thereafter Parot came back, and desired to repossess himself of the paper money. He was desired to call next day, and was then informed that he could not have it, as it had been transmitted to France. Mortified and disappointed, he left the bank, closely followed by detectives, who traced him to the Mataran Hotel, in Beekman-street. Officers were thereupon stationed in the opposite house to look out for the others whom they were in search of. They were not long kept in suspense. In a few hours two men came to the house, whom the Frenchmen—sent over to identify the parties—immediately pronounced to be the brothers Grelet. They were promptly arrested, as were also Parot and Mdlle. Debud. In the trunks and baggage of Parot were found 16,900 francs, and on his person 24,000 francs—making, with the money detained by Belmont, 70,000 francs. Those funds were retained, although nothing had transpired to show the complicity of Parot with the defaulting *employés*, and although he asseverated, and produced vouchers to show, that the money was his own, procured in part by the sale of his horse establishment for 45,000 francs, and of the hotel kept by Mdlle. Debud for 10,000 francs. The only circumstance that could inculpate him with with the transaction was that, as a stockbroker, he had sold some of the abstracted shares, and also that coupons had been found in his possession.

All the persons arrested—with the exception of the lady, who was placed under police *surveillance*—were committed to the custody of the United States' Marshal, and their extradition, or surrender to the French authorities, demanded under the convention for the surrender of criminals, made between the United States and France, Nov. 9, 1843.

On the 18th of October, Carpentier, the principal cashier on the Northern Railroad, was arrested by two of the United States' Deputy Marshals at a short distance from Newburg, in the interior of the State of New York. The fugitive had shaved off his beard and moustache, had otherwise disguised himself, and had hired himself as a farm servant. Money and valuables were taken from him to the amount of 20,000 fr. Another of the absconding officials, named Guerin, fell into the hands of the London police about the same time, and was handed over to the French authorities.

Mr. Galbraith, the legal adviser of the accused parties, contends that the convention does not embrace an offence of this kind, and that, if it did apply to Carpentier and Louis Grelet, it could by no possible amount of stretching be made to apply to Parot and Eugene Grelet. He says that Parot went to the United States for the purpose of making extensive purchases in horses—his regular business—and that the younger Grelet was nothing but a poor emigrant who had made up his mind to try his fortunes in America, and had but waited for a few weeks that he might have the company of his brother. Mr. Galbraith, believing that they were all wrongfully detained in custody, applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*, so as to have them discharged. This proceeding gave rise to a new move on the part of Rothschild's agent and lawyers. They have instituted a civil suit against the parties for the recovery of the value of the missing shares—over a million dollars—and to have their bail fixed at half a million. As it is impossible for them, with the character of criminals attached to them, to procure such bail, they have been ever since incarcerated in Eldridge-street prison, New York, an institution used for the detention of debtors and United States' prisoners and witnesses.

Meanwhile (says the *New York Herald*) the criminal proceedings against them remain in *statu quo*; and, as to the civil suit, it might continue in litigation for a quarter of a century. No steps have been taken to have the question determined whether or not they should be delivered up to the French authorities, to be brought back to France and there punished for their offence. * * * * The strong probability is that if they were extradited and brought to France they would be there found guilty merely of breach of trust or of larceny—offences not contemplated within the scope or meaning of the convention. But, after all, the most important and interesting features in this very interesting case are the developments which have sprung out of it in reference to the operations on the Bourse—the mode in which the dabblers in stock are fleeced and victimised by the great financiers, and the little, mean, fraudulent transactions which Rothschild daily has recourse to to increase his gains and add to his already immense fortune. We will briefly recapitulate the statements already published, and append some others which were kept in reserve.

THE BOURSE USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

The Bourse, in its present enlarged and comprehensive character of a popular gambling establishment, received its greatest impetus and development in 1852, although it had been tending that way from 1848. At that time (1852) Louis Napoleon was planning his *coup d'état* of the 2nd of December, and a command of incalculable funds was absolutely necessary to enable him to carry it out—to attach to him the leading spirits of the army, to recompense his needy followers, and to furnish means to support the extravagances of an Imperial Court. In this emergency the Bourse was thought of, and immediately recognised as the very thing to have recourse to. The editors of the influential papers in Paris, and all the great financiers of the capital, were taken into confidence, and allowed to participate in the spoils. The programme of operations commenced by giving stocks a fictitious rise. This the capitalists can do at pleasure. Then the newspapers called attention to the fact of the progressive rise in stocks, and of the consequent facility of realising fortunes. Citizens who had a few hundred or thousand francs to spare were induced gradually to step to the Bourse and invest. The rise kept steadily progressing. Large profits were being made. Fortunes were being actually or apparently realised. The excitement spread. It covered not only Paris but the whole country, and men and women began to forget all other business in the one absorbing idea of the Bourse. That was the effect which the Imperial and financial managers had been striving for. The fish came to the net in countless shoals. France was converted into a nation of speculators, and the managers behind the scenes, who by ingenious contrivances, political and otherwise, could raise or depress the price of stocks at pleasure, made fabulous fortunes, of course at the expense of the credulous dabblers in stock.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER.

Afterwards, at the proper time, came a fall as remarkable as the rise. Then a new campaign was entered on; but this time, under the auspices not of such a man as Fould, who had become insane, but of a powerful society, which, by the skilful use of its own immense capital, could elevate or depreciate stocks at its pleasure. This society is known as the Credit Mobilier. Its capital is sixty millions of francs. It was composed of managers who had become rich in the first campaign, and who added to this immense capital their own fortunes, or fortunes extracted from the treasuries of companies of which they were grantees. This brought up the disposable capital of the Crédit Mobilier to one hundred and twenty millions of francs. This society, formed with the object—as its title denotes—of giving aid to traders who may have met reverses, became a grand power in the elevation and depreciation of stocks at its own pleasure and without apparent reason; first, by means of its powerful capital; and, secondly, by the influence of its managers—an influence acquired by the very weight of success. Then the Bourse of Paris became nothing more than an immense stock market, subject to the greatest fluctuations under this influence. The great events of the war in the Crimea were even powerless in affecting that influence. Let any one imagine to himself an unfortunate speculator, depending on his own counsels alone—turning now to the right, now to the left—doing everything at hazard, and he will soon see what losses he must have been sure to sustain. Shares have varied twenty per cent per week on an average. A person holding a hundred shares, and constantly buying and selling, might, under such fluctuations, lose 350,000 francs in the course of the year. A hundred shares is a mere trifle on the Bourse. When it concerns a thousand shares, it is easy to see how immense the losses or gains must be. It is impossible to give anything like a true picture of the extensive ruin inflicted by this Crédit Mobilier—a society which found its idea in the brain of Ferriere, the imitator of Rothschild. It has caused ruin and devastation, and not a few suicides. The Crédit Mobilier is the origin of the ruin of hundreds of families. Its wealth is only the result of a robbery skilfully organised on a large scale. To-day its managers are financial kings. But yesterday they were citizens in modest circumstances.

HOW CAPITALISTS OPERATE ON THE BOURSE.

There is a variety of ways in which the great capitalist speculating on the Bourse can make tremendous profits. One is—by buying up large quantities of a certain description of stock when it is low, and then contracting with the company whose stock they have thus bought, and laid aside, quietly to buy from them, deliverable at a certain time, more of the same stock than is really in the market. As the time of fulfilling the contract approaches there is a great demand for that stock. The holders are firm, and the price, consequently, goes up. Then Rothschild—taking him as the capitalist contracting to buy—will dribble out small parcels of it; and thus, on account of its very scarcity, it goes up to perhaps 20 or 30 per cent more than the company contracted to deliver it at—so that he will actually sell at 80 or 90 the stock deliverable to himself at 60. Another frequent mode of inflating or depressing stock is by means of the newspaper press. The mass of small speculators do not understand the theory of the business they embark in, but look to the newspapers for information. They have any amount of credulity, but very little reason. If they read in the *Moniteur* or in the *Constitutionnel* that such and such stock is sure, on account of certain combinations and arrangements made, to advance rapidly in price, they rush head-foremost to the Bourse, and invest their savings in that description of stock. If they read in the same way that it is likely in a day or two to suffer depreciation, they as unsuspectingly rush down and sell such of that stock as they have. They don't think at the time that this rumour, so repeated in the journal, has been dexterously set afloat by some high financiers who are making a little operation in that stock. And so in every way they are beguiled.

Another very successful mode of operating consists in the great financiers availing themselves of important political intelligence, known only to the Cabinet and some of themselves, and which affects the rise of all stocks. For instance:—

The death of the Emperor Nicholas was known to Louis Napoleon and his Cabinet for two whole days before the newspapers were permitted to announce it. During this interval the great financiers—in the secret—were spreading the rumour that affairs were in the worst possible condition—that the war would be an interminable one, and so forth—and succeeded in producing a fall of 30 per cent in the stock known as the French *Rentes*; they of course bought up at this depreciation. Then suddenly the announcement was made that the Czar of all the Russias was dead—that his successor would gladly make peace on any terms, and that the war was virtually at an end. Immediately the *rentes* received a wondrous rise, having in one day advanced 50 per cent. The operator who had used 10,000 francs to-day in the purchase of *rentes* found to-morrow that he had cleared 100,000 francs by the transaction. The great financiers, Rothschild, Fould, and the Crédit Mobilier, who would probably use a million of francs for the purpose, would in the same way realise a profit of ten millions. Similar operations were performed with like success by means of some three or four ultimatums—said to be accepted or refused, as would best suit the object—during the continuance of the war. So at the close of the war. The common speculators on the Bourse were never so confident of the refusal of the Czar to accept the last ultimatum of the Allied Powers than they were the very day before the restoration of peace was officially announced in the *Moniteur*, and stocks were consequently in the lowest stage of depreciation. And yet forty-eight hours before its publication the Government had received information of the fact; and the interim was utilized for stock-jobbing operations. When it is known that at least half a dozen times in the course of a year were these measures resorted to, and these operations made, one may imagine, though he cannot, perhaps, realise, the tremendous profits made by the great capitalists at the expense of the French people.

It was under such influences, and subject to such temptations, that the *employés* of the Great Northern Railroad had recourse to the Rothschilds' shares to enable them to speculate, until they found that they, in common with all the minor speculators, were victimised by the great financiers of France.

TESTIMONIAL PRESENTED TO MR. CHARLES CAPPER, LATE OF THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.

MR. CAPPER, who for many years had held an important office under the Eastern Counties Railway Company, having resigned his appointment, and accepted a post upon the management of the Victoria London Docks, his fellow-officials were anxious to present him with a handsome testimony of their esteem. For this purpose a committee was appointed, and subscription-lists were opened; and, the sum of £200 having been collected, the preparation of a suitable service of plate was intrusted to Messrs. Smith, Nicholson, and Co., Duke-street, Lincoln's-inn—who designed and executed in silver a very handsome candelabrum, a tea and coffee service of six pieces, and a massive salver.

The candelabrum (which we have engraved) has embossed upon one side of its base a locomotive engine, upon another is shown a railway train emerging from a tunnel, and upon the third is an inscription stating the circumstances under which the presentation took place. The entire service is of a highly-ornamental and tasteful character, and reflects much credit upon the manufacturers.

Messrs. Williamson and Son, shipbuilders, Harrington, have built a school room, news-room, and library, for the men in their employment, and allow them the use rent-free. The library was established in February last, and now contains 300 volumes.